

John Webster

Profile

Born in Aberdeen, John's scientific career started at Aberdeen University's Chemistry Department working on a couple of research projects. In 1968 he relocated to Hertfordshire to take up a post at the newly formed laboratory of the Lea Conservancy Catchment Board, and from then on his working life was spent in a water industry environment, initially as a chemist analysing environmental samples for trace contaminants. The river conservancy board later became part of what is now the Environment Agency.

In his early thirties he was appointed as Laboratory Manager within Lothian Regional Council's newly formed scientific services in Edinburgh and held this type of post for the next thirty years during a time of great change as the water industry went from regional council control, first to East of Scotland Water, and finally to Scottish Water.

During his working life he served on various expert groups and was a member of a special interest group within the Royal Society of Chemistry. Working in a scientific environment meant that he became familiar with computers for both technical and administrative uses from their first appearance as user-friendly items. Towards the end of his working career, he managed a staff of about 130 including chemists, microbiologists and sampling officers.

John is happy to help out the Archives Trust because he has always had an interest in local history and archaeology in general and feels he could offer a range of skills of a technical and administrative nature that may help.